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NEWS RELEASE

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Education Department Awards \$1,165,000 in Grants for Community Learning Centers

The R.I. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has award \$1,165,000 in grants to establish or expand after-school and summer community learning centers in three school districts.

The grants, part of the 21st Century Community Learning Initiative, were awarded to:

- Central Falls School District, \$178,000, for expansion of an existing program
- Mt. Hope Learning Center, \$249,000, for a center serving the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, Providence
- Newport Community School, \$249,000, for a center at the Frank E. Thompson Middle School, Newport
- Sophia Academy/Veazie Street School, Providence, \$241,000
- Volunteers in Providence Schools, \$248,000, for a center at Hope High School

These grants are to be used to create high-quality comprehensive centers that provide academic enrichment and recreational activities before and after school, during the summer and school vacations, and on weekends. The programs must be closely linked to the school-day teachers, the curriculum, and to academic standards, and they must include components that engage families in their children's education and help parents access adult-education programs.

This marks the second round of awards under this program; last year, \$1.4 million in grants were awarded to seven programs in Central Falls, Cranston, Providence, Newport, Pawtucket, and Woonsocket. A third round of funding is to be awarded later this year.

These are federally funded grants from the U.S. Department of Education (Title IV). The grants were awarded on a competitive basis, with priority given to programs at high-poverty schools that have been classified as "in need of improvement."

